

more than could be imagined, by any, who had not known, how many of her hours were spent in her closet.¹

When her eyes were endangered by reading too much, she found out the amusement of work: and in all those hours that were not given to better employments, she wrought with her own hands ; and that sometimes with so constant a diligence, as if she had been to earn her bread by it. It was a new thing, and looked like a sight, to see a queen work so many hours a day. . . . Her example soon wrought on, not only those that belonged to her, but the whole town to follow it : so that it was become as much the fashion to work, as it had been formerly to be idle. In this, which seemed a nothing, and was turned by some to be the subject of railery, a greater step was made, than perhaps every one was aware of, to the bettering of the age. While she diverted her self thus with work, she took care to give an entertainment to her own mind, as well as to those who were admitted to the honour of working with her : one was appointed to read to the rest, the choice was suited to the time of the day, and to the employment: some book or poem that was lively, as well as instructive. Few of her sex, not to say of her rank, gave ever less time to dressing, or seemed less curious about it.²

Other clerical writers also throw light on Mary's character. Lake gives a few details of her grief at leaving England on her marriage,³ and her first chaplain in Holland, Hooper, has stated that ' in the time he attended her, which was about a year and a half, he never

saw her do, nor
heard her say a thing, that he could have
wished she had

¹Essay, pp. 73, 79-81. In her journal for 1691
Mary says, 'I got a book
of the Bishop of Samm which I pleased my self
much with.' She adds, 'I
continued constant in reading the Scripture
and for other matters set my
self to the reading our English history with
attention.' *Memoirs of Mary,
Queen of England*, ed. R. Doebner (1886), pp.
43-4.

²Burnet, Essay, pp. 82-5.

³Diary of Dr. Edward Lake, printed in
Camden Miscellany, vol. i